

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-05 L-01 IGA-01 HEW-02 MED-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE IN NARCOTICS

CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REFS: A) EMBASSY'S A-121; (B) STATE 233134

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY: I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN URUGUAY. LARGELY THROUGH U.S. EFFORTS THERE HAS BEEN CREATED A PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL AWARENESS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM WHICH HAS RESULTED IN IMPROVED LOCAL LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT, THE ASSUMPTION BY THE GOU OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND POSITIVE GOU COOPERATION WHICH HAS HELPED US INTERDICT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING. WE HAVE PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE OUR PROGRAM SOON WILL BE LIMITED TO OPERATIONAL LIAISON, SOME TRAINING, REINFORCING EXISTING ATTITUDES, AND, PROBABLY, MODEST HELP TO THE GOU IN ESTABLISHING AN EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE. ALTHOUGH REDUCED, OUR PROGRAM WILL BE IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING THE GOU'S COMMITMENT AND COOPERATION. IT MUST, HOWEVER, BE DESIGNED TO CONVINCE LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN

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THEIR WELFARE AS WELL AS OUR OWN. CCINC AND OTHER AGENCY

SUPPORT TO DATE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. END SUMMARY.

2. I BELIEVE THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN URUGUAY TO BE WELL CONCEIVED AND, TO DATE, WELL EXECUTED. INASMUCH AS THIS COUNTRY HAD HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH DRUG ABUSE, WE USED VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM TO CREATE AN AWARENESS OF THE WORLD PROBLEM BOTH AMONG THE PUBLIC AND IN THE GOVERNMENT. GIVEN OUR SUCCESS IN CREATING AN ATTITUDINAL BASE, A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES BECAME POSSIBLE.

3. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, WE WERE ABLE TO HELP BRING ABOUT, IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE AND A NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS BRIGADE. IN JANUARY 1974 THE GOU ESTABLISHED MUCH STRICTER CONTROLS OVER PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING INGREDIENTS WHICH PRODUCE PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGICAL EFFECTS. THE COUNCIL OF STATE, URUGUAY'S LEGISLATIVE BODY, IS EXPECTED TO GIVE PROMPT APPROVAL TO NEW NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION WHICH WILL ALSO GIVE THE NARCOTICS BRIGADE A FIRM MANDATE AND ITS OWN BUDGET, THUS PERMITTING US TO TERMINATE OUR MODEST COMMODITIES PROGRAM AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. FOR OUR PART WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH A DEA PRESENCE IN COUNTRY AND BEGIN U.S. (DEA, PUBLIC SAFETY-PRIOR TO JUNE 1974-, AND CUSTOMS) TRAINING IN COUNTRY AND ABROAD.

4. ON THE INTERNATIONAL SIDE, WE HAVE NEGOTIATED A NEW BILATERAL USG-GOU EXTRADITION TREATY TO COVER, INER ALIA, NARCOTICS OFFENSES. THE TREATY IS NOW BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF STATE FOR ITS CONSENT. URUGUAY ADHERED TO THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION AND THE 1972 PROTOCOL THERETO ON JULY 12, 1974. THE DIRECOTR OF CUSTOMS HAS REQUESTED FUNDS TO PERMIT URUGUAY TO JOIN THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL. ALL THESE RVGASURES HAD BEEN URGED BY THE COUNTRY TEAM.

5. OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN URUGUAY HAS BEEN THE INTERDICTION OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC. URUGUAYAN COOPERATION TO THIS END HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN POSITIVE AND SINCERE AND HAS BEEN IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SENDING FROM URUGUAY TO THE U.S. FOR TRIAL THERE, EIGHT CLASS I VIOLATORS UNDER
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U.S. INDICTMENT. APPROPRIATE GOU OFFICIALS ASSURE US THAT THIS COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE.

6. WITH THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE NOW WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND ANXIOUS TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND PREVENT INTERNAL ABUSES, WE PLAN BASICALLY TO REDUCE OUR PROGRAM TO OPERATIONAL LIAISON, SOME TRAINING, AND TO REINFORCING EXISTING ATTITUDES. AS A DIRECT RESULT OF

A SAODAP CLINICAL COURSE ON DRUG ABUSE IN JUNE, 1974, THE GOU'S NATIONAL COMMISSION TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE IS LOOKING AT A FAMILY AND SCHOOL-BASED EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM. ONCE DEVELOPED, THIS PROGRAM WILL PERMIT US TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LOGICAL PHASE OF OUR PROGRAM, THAT OF ASSISTING THE GOU IN PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE IN URUGUAY.

7. DESPITE MY CONVICTION THAT OUR PROGRAM HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT WE ARE PHASING DOWN SOME ACTIITIES, I DO NOT FORESEE A PHASE OUT. SOME YEARS AGO URUGUAY WAS A HAVEN FOR MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE AND WE WISH TO KEEP IT THIS WAY. WHILE WE BELIVE URUGUAYAN COOPERATION IS SINCERELY MOTIVATED TO LARGE DEGREE, IT IS STILL USEFUL FOR GOU OFFICIALS (WHO ARE POORLY PAID) TO KNOW THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY DEA, ARE LOOKING OVER THIER SHOULDERS. DEA PRESENCE MUST THEREFORE BE MAINTAINED. ALSO, SUCCESS IN INTERDICTION EFFORTS ELSEWHERE COULD DIVERT ILLEGAL TRAFFIC THROUGH URUGUAY. THEREFORE I BELIEVE A LONG-TERM AMERICAN PRESENCE IS DESIRABLE BOTH TO PREVENT A REVERSION TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE AND TO COPE WITH NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP.

8. THE CONTINUED OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PROGRAM WILL DEPEND UPON OUR CONVINCING HOST COUNTRIES THAT OUR INTERESTS ABROAD TRANSCEND INTERDICTION OF TRAFFIC WHICH MIGHT BE DESTINED FOR THE U.S. I REALIZE THAT THE CONGRESS, DOES NOT INTEND TO FINANCE PROGRAMS TO TREAT ADDICTION ABROAD. NEVERTHELESS, I HOPE THAT WE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING TOWARDS HOST COUNTRY EFFORTS SUCH AS URUGUAY'S PROPOSED EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT NEEDED TO CONVINCE THEM THAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THEIR WELFARE AS WELL AS OUR OWN. IN ALL OTHER ASPECTS THE CCINC AND
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ALL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM HAVE COOPERATED FULLY, IN WASHINGTON AND ABROAD, IN MAKING THE PROGRAM A SUCCESS.
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